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Message Text

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63
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 SY-10

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---------- 088273
R 142320Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4814
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 2900

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJ: SAN JOSE NEWSPAPER LINKS AMBASSADOR
SHELTON AND WATERGATE

1. EL DIARIO DE COSTA RICA, A SOMETIMES SENSATIONALIST MORNING DAILY, RAN A FULL-PAGE STORY ON ITS COMMENTARY PAGE AUGUST 14 ENTITLED "IN MANAGUA SHELTON LINKED WITH WATERGATE". AND ALSO CARRIED THE TITLE ON THE FRONT PAGE. THE STORY, RAMBLING AND DISCONNECTED, WAS WRITTEN BY DIARIO'S "SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT" IN MANAGUA AND WAS DESCRIBED AS AN "EXCLUSIVE" BY THE PAPER'S EDITOR. THE ARTICLE STATED THAT OPPOSITION POLITICAL CIRCLES AND JOURNALISTS IN MANAGUA SUSPECT THAT AMBASSADOR SHELTON "MIGHT HAVE HAD, AT LEAST SLIGHTLY, A CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUE (WATERGATE)". THIS SPECULATION APPEARS TO REST ON ALLEGED CONNECTION BETWEEN HOWARD HUGHES, AMBASSADOR SHELTON AND SOMOZA, AND ON TENUOUS LINKS BETWEEN HUGHES AND PERSONS IMPLICATED IN WATERGATE.

2. AMBASSADOR SHELTON IS SAID IN THE STORY TO HAVE KNOWN HUGHES IN THE 1940S WHEN THEY BOTH WORKED IN HOLLYWOOD; LATER, IT GOES ON, THEY WERE BOTH IN THE BAHAMAS WHEN THE AMBASSADOR WAS THE "U.S. CONSUL". THE
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STORY SUGGESTS THAT SOMOZA REQUESTED THE NIXON ADMINIS-

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TRATION TO NAME AN AMBASSADOR TO NICARAGUA WHO COULD SERVE AS A LINK BETWEEN SOMOZA AND HOWARD HUGHES.

3. THE ENTIRE CENTER PART OF THE STORY IS DEVOTED TO A MELANGE OF INFORMATION ABOIITOMRDON LIDDY'S CHECKERED BACKGROUND AND ACTIVITIES, BUT WITH NO APPARENT PURPOSE OTHER THAN TO SUGGEST LIDDY'S CAPABILITIES AT UNDER-HANDED ACTIVITIES. THE STORY AGAIN PICKS UP THE THEME SUGGESTED IN THE TITLE WHEN, REFERENCING JAMES MCCORD AS THE SOURCE, LIDDY WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN FERRYING TO NICARAGUA DOCUMENTS ABOUT HUGHES' LIFE AND BUSINESS WHICH HAD BEEN STOLEN FROM A LAS VEGAS, NEVADA NEWSMAN'S SAFE. THE AUTHOR RHETORICALLY ASKED HOW "HUGHES, SHELTON, LIDDY, SOMOZA AND NIXON ARE CONNECTED IN THE AFFAIR."

4. THERE HAVE BEEN NO PRESS INQUIRIES ON THE STORY AND NONE ARE LIKELY GIVEN THE STORY'S HIGHLY SPECULATIVE TONE AND POOR LOGIC.
LANE

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